

INFORMAL

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISC 16 April 1978

SUBJECT Russian Troop Movements in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg

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PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. Wandorf (Z-91): This town recently received two rifle divisions with a total strength of approximately 25,000 men. The troops, estimated to be seventeen to nineteen years of age, are not permitted contact with the local population.

2. Kirchmose (Z-13): Approximately 300 German workers were dismissed from their jobs at the tank repair shop in Brandenburg on 1 February (sic) Comments: Presumably the installation at Kirchmose. Between 10 and 15 February, three Soviet repair units moved in and began to repair four sheds and to construct barracks.

3. Wildpark (Z-59): Between 13 and 20 February, four armored brigades and one artillery regiment appeared in the Wildpark area, arriving on foot (sic) from the southeast. Two of the brigades are equipped with a new heavy tank which appears to be equipped with a German 88 mm. gun; the other two brigades are equipped with a light "T-42 tank with a 72-75 mm. gun". The artillery regiment is motorized and its guns are hauled by eighteen-ton prime movers. The restricted Wildpark area has been almost doubled in size through the inclusion of the whole part of the Michendorf Forest.

4. Northern Mecklenburg: Large-scale troop movements were observed in Northern Mecklenburg from 18 to 24 February. All were armored troops who moved only by night and were held during the day in lake regions or wooded areas closed off by Russian field police cordons. In the Schwerin-Wismar area, large numbers of armored, heavy artillery, and motorized AA troops moved northwest.

5. Gadebusch-Rehna Area (T-27, T-16): Between 21 and 23 February, the VII Guards Armored Corps arrived on foot in the Gadebusch-Rehna area. This component of the Third Shock Army began its movement south of Schwerin on the night of 19 February and proceeded via side roads and through fields to the heights west of Gadebusch. All tanks turned off to the north and took up quarters in a region known as the Batschburger Schlucht, between the towns of Kalcu, Schönberg (T-46), and Dessau (T-19). This corps is equipped with new heavy tanks with 88 mm. guns. The troops are young, but many of the NCO's are older men, some of whom wear the Stalin badge.

6. New troops, reported to be Stalin Pupils, have arrived in the Schönberg area. They are said to be in approximately divisional strength and are used for tank duties and as military police.

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7. Soviet naval troops were among those observed proceeding towards Wismar. No horse-drawn groups or infantry units were seen.

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